



**Hurricane Irene Activations in FEMA Region III
August 26 – 29, 2011
Emergency Support Function 11 After Action Report**



Summary

On August 26, 2011, ESF11 was activated to the FEMA Region III, Regional Response Coordination Center in support of Hurricane Irene operations. Irene reached Region III as a Category I Hurricane on the evening of the 27th, weaker than originally forecast. The major agricultural concerns were shelter support, both human and animal, damage to USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) regulated facilities and the Delmarva Peninsula poultry industry. Virginia absorbed the brunt of the storm within the region, experiencing major flooding on the coastal portions of the state. State and NGO support to the shelters was exceptional as USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) support for congregate feeding was not required. Animal Care (AC) technical support was requested by the FEMA Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) deployed to Maryland's State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This caused confusion as the state had the situation under control and was not requesting any federal assistance. Two AC individuals did deploy however, to augment the FEMA IMAT. Damage to FSIS facilities was minimal and the Delmarva poultry industry suffered only minor losses. ESF11 was demobilized on August 29th.

What Went Well

- Request for Desk Officer support through Veterinary Services was outstanding. The AEC out of the Pennsylvania Office provided ESF11 coverage on the night shift. Although activity was minimal, acclimation to FEMA operations and ESF11 training proved invaluable.
- Coordination with ESF6 was exceptional. The Mass Care Cell provided up to date information on shelter populations throughout the event allowing ESF11 to keep FNS updated on the situation.
- Close coordination with FNS MARO resulted in current state warehouse inventories. State Distributing Agencies and FNS were standing by and prepared to support any requests for assistance.
- Coordination with FEMA logistics provided ESF11 and FNS with prepositioned infant/toddler kit numbers.
- FSIS offices in Philadelphia and Richmond provided current damage assessments on regulated facilities and product loss information.
- All State/Commonwealth Agriculture desks were manned at EOCs during the event. Continuous communication resulted in an accurate picture of what was occurring/developing within their state/commonwealth.

Challenges/Areas for Improvement

- There was confusion as to why the two AC individuals were being sent to support the IMAT in Maryland. The state did not request any assistance and had the situation under control. As a result of the request, two individuals traveled from Indiana and Ohio to support an operation in Maryland. The individuals arrived on the afternoon of the 28th only to be released on the morning of the 29th. This was not prudent use of an already scarce AC asset.
- The administrative process of getting accounting codes into GovTrip needs to be streamlined. With end of year close out occurring, travel vouchers needed to be completed by August 15th. Some accounting codes were not updated in GovTrip in time to meet this deadline resulting in some vouchers having to be delayed until October 3 for processing.